

WEST MERSEA
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Mr. E. A. VINCE

Mr. C. G. REED

Mr. J. P. EDWARDS

Medical Officer of Health

E. A. HARGREAVES, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H

Sanitary Inspector

E. J. BANNER, A.M.I.S.E., A.R.San.I,

REBOW CHAMBERS,

COLCHESTER.

30th July, 1956.

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the Health and Vital Statistics of the District for the year 1955.

My term of service with your Council started only one month before the end of the period covered by this report. You will appreciate therefore that I am not in a position to comment upon it.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant,

E. A. HARGREAVES.

WEST MERSEA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Statistics and Social Circumstances of the area

Area	....	....	....	....	2683 acres
Registrar General's estimate of resident population	....				3010
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1955) according to					
Rate Book	....	....	....	....	1252
Rateable Value	....	....	....	....	£19,066
Sum represented by a penny rate	....			....	£75

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The district is the western portion of Mersea Island which lies between the estuaries of the rivers Blackwater and Colne. The nearest town is Colchester, situated about 9½ miles to the north.

As a summer health resort, it attracts a large number of holiday makers, many of whom enjoy some excellent sailing.

The main industries are agriculture, fishing, building and yacht building, etc.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

			Total M F			
<i>Live Births</i>	Legitimate	....	28	13	15	Birth rate per 1000 of estimated resident population—9.24. Corrected birth rate—11.55.
	Illegitimate	....	—	—	—
<i>Still Births</i>	Legitimate	....	2	1	1	Rate per 1000 total births—67.
	Illegitimate	....	—	—	—
<i>Deaths</i>	....	....	51	19	32	Death rate per 1000 of estimated resident population—16.5. Corrected death rate—10.6.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes			Rate per 1000	
			<i>Deaths</i>	<i>total Births</i>
Puerperal Sepsis	—	—
Other puerperal causes	—	—

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age

All infants per 1000 live births	....	....	—	—
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births			—	—
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births			—	—

Deaths in Various Age Groups (local statistics)

<i>Age</i>			<i>No. of deaths</i>
0— 1 year	—
1— 2 years	—
2— 5 years	—

<i>Age</i>		<i>No. of deaths</i>
5-15 years	....	1
15-25 years	....	—
25-35 years	....	—
35-45 years	....	—
45-55 years	....	2
55-65 years	....	7
65-75 years	....	14
75-85 years	....	19
85 years and upwards	....	8
		—
		51
		—

CAUSES OF DEATH

			<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Malignant neoplasm, Stomach	....	....	—	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	....	....	3	—	3
Malignant neoplasm, breast	....	....	—	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	....	....	—	2	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	....	....	—	1	1
Diabetes	....	....	1	—	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	....	....	5	9	14
Coronary disease, angina	....	....	3	4	7
Hypertension with heart disease	....	....	—	1	1
Other heart disease	....	....	1	6	7
Other circulatory diseases	....	....	3	1	4
Bronchitis	....	....	—	1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	....	....	—	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	....	....	1	—	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	....	....	—	3	3
Motor vehicle accidents	....	....	1	—	1
All other accidents	....	....	—	1	1
Suicide	....	....	1	—	1
			—	—	—
			19	32	51
			—	—	—

38 people died in West Mersea.

13 people died out of the area (all in various Institutions).

(1 female reached the age of 100 years).

National Assistance Acts, 1948-51

Action was taken under these acts to remove one elderly person (female) to a suitable hospital for detention and care, and for subsequent extensions of the period of detention.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority

Medical Officer of Health—E. A. Hargreaves, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. He is employed part-time; he devotes the remainder of his time to two neighbouring authorities and to the County Council.

Sanitary Inspector—E. J. Banner, A.M.I.S.E., A.R.San.I. He is also employed as Surveyor to the Council.

Laboratory Facilities

There has been no change in the facilities described in the last report.

The Laboratories available are situated at:

The Essex County Hospital, Colchester.

The Public Health Laboratory, Woodbridge Road, Ipswich.

The Counties Laboratory, 66 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

Ambulance

Non-emergency ambulance calls are not accepted from the general public.

To obtain an ambulance in an emergency it is merely necessary to lift the telephone receiver and ask for an ambulance. If there is a dialling system in operation dial "999," "0," or "01" and ask for an ambulance.

Health Services provided by the Essex County Council

Ante-natal and post-natal clinics.

Midwives.

Nursing in the home.

Health visiting.

Mental welfare.

Home helps.

Vaccination and diphtheria immunisation.

Provision of nursing equipment and apparatus.

School health service.

Ante-natal and post-natal clinics are held at the Health Services Clinic, Culver Street, Colchester, at 2.30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Infant Welfare Clinics are held at the Church Hall on the second and fourth Wednesday in each month at 2.15 p.m.

Assistance from the Home Help Service is obtained by communicating with the Area Organiser, Area Office, Trinity Street, Colchester (Telephone: Colchester 6251, Ext. 3).

Health Services provided by the Regional Hospital Board

Tuberculosis.—The Chest Clinic is situated at 3, Shewell Road, Colchester, and is open daily.

V.D.—Sessions held at the Essex County Hospital on Mondays, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. for males and females and Fridays, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. for males and females.

Certain specialist services, obtainable through the School Medical Service, are also provided.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA WATER

The water supply is obtained from a deep bore on the island, owned by the Council. The water is chlorinated and has been sufficient in quantity. The water is salty to the taste as it contains a high proportion of chlorides. Fluorine is also present in sufficient quantity to cause mottling of the teeth.

A few houses at the eastern end of the District are supplied by a neighbouring Authority, whose water main transverses the District at this point.

The number of samples submitted for analysis during the year was: —

Chemical
2

Bacteriological
7

Chemical Results in Parts per Million

Appearance—Opalescent with a yellow-brown flocculent deposit.

Microscopic examination shows particles of mineral debris.

			<i>Turbidity</i>	....	....	4
<i>Colour</i>	....	filtered: 3	<i>Odour</i>	....	....	Nil
<i>pH</i>	....	.... 8.4	<i>Free Carbon Dioxide</i>			absent
<i>Electric conductivity</i>	....	3000	<i>Total Solids</i>	....	....	1970
<i>Chlorine present as</i>			<i>Alkalinity as Calcium</i>			
<i>Chloride</i>	....	.... 800	<i>Carbonate</i>	....	....	375
<i>Hardness: total</i>	75	<i>Carbonate</i> 75	<i>Non-carbonate</i>	....	....	0
<i>Nitrate Nitrogen</i>	....	0.8	<i>Nitrite Nitrogen</i>			approx. 0.1
<i>Ammoniacal Nitrogen</i>	....	0.099	<i>Oxygen absorbed</i>	....	....	0.50
<i>Albuminoid Nitrogen</i>	....	0.000	<i>Residual Chlorine</i>	....	....	—
<i>Metals</i> —Iron	0.03,	other metals				
	absent.	Fluoride (F) 5.5 p.p.m.				

Bacteriological Results

Plate Count Yeastrel agar 2 days aerobically 37°C. 0 per ml.

Plate Count Yeastrel agar 3 days at Room Temp. 0

Probable number of coliform bacilli MacConkey

2 days at 37°C. 0 per 100 ml.

Probable number of faecal coli

Remarks—Bacteriological findings very satisfactory.

The number of houses supplied from the Council's mains is 1,057.

The number of houses supplied from the mains of a neighbouring authority is 31.

The number of houses supplied from standpipes is 57 with an approximate population of 70.

The number of houses connected to the main during the year was 34.

No extensions were carried out.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Inspections

Houses inspected	....	....	....	162
Inspections under Public Health Acts	....	....	....	22
Butcher's shops inspected	....	....	....	45
Fried fish shops inspected	....	....	....	50
Ice cream stores inspected	....	....	....	35
Dairies inspected	....	....	....	15
Bakehouses inspected	....	....	....	4
Factory Acts	....	....	....	22
Movable dwellings and camping sites inspected	....	....	....	30

Notices

Statutory notices served, Public Health Acts	....	....	Nil
Informal notices served, Public Health Acts	....	....	3
Informal notices complied with	....	....	3
Demolition or Closing Orders issued	....	....	Nil

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Thirty-four houses were connected to the sewer during the year.

HOUSING

Housing does not present the problem which is experienced by other authorities. A good proportion of the houses are owner-occupied, and the remainder are for the most part in a good state of repair. It was not necessary to represent any for slum clearance. Two Council houses were completed during the year and 29 houses were completed by private enterprise.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

A proposal to use land bordering on the Pyefleet channel for the establishment of a Refuse Tip had to be abandoned following objections on Public Health grounds, but it was found possible to establish a new tip on a site in the centre of the District which has improved the situation commented upon in previous years.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The District maintained its comparative immunity from infectious disease—only 14 cases being notified during the year.

The details are: —

Measles	....	6
Whooping cough		3
Scarlet fever	....	1
Food poisoning		4

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

As no local slaughterhouses have yet been licensed, carcasses are brought into the district from the Borough of Colchester.

There has been no alteration in the number of food premises, registered or otherwise, as set out in detail in the report for 1953.

Inspection of these premises has been carried out at regular intervals.

The following unsound foods were surrendered: —

Tinned foods	10 tins
Meat	.... Nil

MOSQUITO NUISANCE

Known breeding places of mosquitoes were sprayed at intervals throughout the breeding season.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

Routine inspection of factories is made at suitable intervals. The attention of the management is drawn to any defects which are observed.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health:—

<i>Premises.</i>	<i>No. on Register.</i>	<i>No. of Inspections.</i>
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	.... 11	22
Cases in which defects were found	.... Nil	Nil

OUTWORK

<i>Nature of Work.</i>	<i>No. of outworkers in August List required by Sect. 110 (i) (c).</i>	<i>Irregularities Sect. 110.</i>	<i>Irregularities Sect. 111</i>
Wearing apparel, making, etc.	Nil	Nil	Nil